Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 1-2. These sheets replace the original Figures 1-2.

Attachments: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

The enclosed is responsive to the Office Action mailed on July 7, 2005. At the time the Office Action was mailed claims 1-20 were pending. By way of the present response the Applicants have: 1) amended claim 15; 2) added no new claims; and 3) canceled no claims. As such, claims 1-20 are now pending. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application and the allowance of all claims now presented.

Drawings

The Office Action objected to Figures 1 and 2 as illustrating Prior Art. Applicants have amended Figures 1 and 2 to include the legend Prior Art.

35 USC § 102

The Office Action rejected claims 1-3 and 10-12 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Monk et al., US Pat. No. 6,501,809 (hereinafter "Monk").

Monk describes "a clock smoothing circuit [that] generates a smoothed clock signal from a gapped clock signal having unevenly spaced pulses separated by gaps that result from the removal of data bits and from a reference clock signal having evenly spaced pulses that create a predetermined reference frequency." (Monk, Abstract.) "The clock and data smoother uses the high speed clock signal to smooth the gapped clock and data signals..." (Monk, Col. 4, lines 14-16, Emphasis added.) "The smoothing circuit first smooths the gapped clock signal to produce the smoothed clock signal by using an accumulate the high speed clock pulses....The smoothed clock signal is produced by

outputting each high speed clock pulse for which the accumulator value does not equal the modulo integer M and by outputting no pulse for the clocking period during which the accumulator is reset. The smoothed data signal is produced by using the gapped clock signal to clock the gapped data signal into a buffer and then using the smoothed clock signal to clock the buffered data out using the buffer." (Monk, Col. 4, lines 50-63.)

With respect to claim 1, Monk does not describe what Applicants' claim requires. Specifically, Monk does not describe "receiving a data stream comprising timestamp information into a buffer, wherein the received data stream includes gaps; and generating an equalized reference clock from the received data stream by removing the gaps to facilitate equalized processing of the timestamp information received in a non-equalized data stream."

As described above, Monk generates a "smoothed" clock signal by outputting each high speed clock pulse when the accumulator does not equal a modulo integer and outputting no pulse when the accumulator is reset. Monk does not describe generating an equalized reference clock but only a smoothed clock that still has gaps when the accumulator is reset. Monk also does not describe generating an equalized reference clock from a received data stream. Monk uses a high speed reference clock to generate its smoothed clock signal.

Accordingly, Monk does not describe what Applicants' claim 1 requires. Claims 2-9 are dependent upon claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reason.

With respect to claim 10, Monk does not describe what Applicants' claim requires. Specifically, Monk does not describe "A machine accessible storage medium comprising a plurality of executable instructions which, when executed by an accessing computing device, implements a synchronization agent to receive a data stream

comprising timestamp information into a buffer, wherein the received data stream includes gaps, and to generate an equalized reference clock from the received data stream by removing the gaps to facilitate equalized processing of the timestamp information received in a non-equalized data stream from the buffer."

As described above, Monk generates a "smoothed" clock signal by outputting each high speed clock pulse when the accumulator does not equal a modulo integer and outputting no pulse when the accumulator is reset. Monk does not describe generating an equalized reference clock but only a smoothed clock that still has gaps when the accumulator is reset. Monk also does not describe generating an equalized reference clock from a received data stream. Monk uses a high speed reference clock to generate its smoothed clock signal.

Accordingly, Monk does not describe what Applicants' claim 10 requires. Claims 11-14 are dependent upon claim 10 and are allowable for at least the same reason.

35 USC § 103

The Office Action rejected claims 5-9 and 13-16 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Monk in view of Hamlin, Jr. et al., US Pat. No. 5,157,655 (hereinafter "Hamlin").

Hamlin describes "an apparatus which receives a gapped data component of an STS-1 signal and provides therefrom an ungapped DS-3 data signal..." (Hamlin, Abstract.) STS-1 (Synchronous Transport Signal one) is the basic unit in SONET transmissions. Hamlin does not describe anything to do with audio/video signals.

Applicants' claim 15 requires "a buffer to receive an audio/video data stream including timestamp information, the received data stream including gaps; one or more

counters, coupled to the buffer, to maintain a count of a number of respective writes to and reads from the buffer; and a numerically controlled oscillator (NCO), coupled to the counters and the buffer, to periodically receive an indication representing a differential error value from the one or more counters and to generate an equalized reference clock which resolves to an average frequency of the input data stream."

As Hamlin does not describe performing operations on or solving any problems regarding audio/visual data streams. Hamlin deals with SONET data streams only. Accordingly, there is no suggestion or motivation in either Monk or Hamlin or in the knowledge generally available to one or ordinary skill in the art to combine Monk and Hamlin.

Monk does not describe what Applicants' claim 15 requires. As described above, Monk generates a "smoothed" clock signal by outputting each high speed clock pulse when the accumulator does not equal a modulo integer and outputting no pulse when the accumulator is reset. Monk does not describe generating an equalized reference clock but only a smoothed clock that still has gaps when the accumulator is reset. Monk also does not describe generating an equalized reference clock from a received data stream. Monk uses a high speed reference clock to generate its smoothed clock signal.

Claims 16-20 are dependent upon claim 15 and are allowable for at least the same reason.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, for which early action is earnestly solicited.

Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (408) 720-8300 to help expedite any further prosecution of the present application.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully Submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

Dated: 10/14/05

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